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LIFESTYLE COLUMNISTS

Have a handmade Halloween



Yesterday 7:19 p.m.

In 2015, Americans spent an estimated \$6.9 billion celebrating Halloween, and it's easy to see why.

Every year, stores are saturated with Halloween-themed items, and October brings lots of Halloween-themed events targeting all age groups.

It isn't necessary to buy a bunch of cheap trinkets to make for a fun Halloween. The Abilene Public Library has a slew of materials dedicated to this colorful holiday that will help you create a one-of-a-kind celebration.

"Glitterville's Handmade Halloween: A Glittered Guide for Whimsical Crafting," by Stephen Brown, is great for intermediate to experienced crafters. This book has full-color photos that show you how to turn your home into a sparkling Halloween wonderland. Stylish Halloween ideas also can be found in Susan Wasinger's "Artful Halloween: 31 Frightfully Elegant Projects." She will show you the spooky but sophisticated side of Halloween — with everything from a centerpiece soaked in "blood" to a yard decoration fashioned from torn fabric.

For those more interested in the frightening side of Halloween, we have the DVD "Create a Halloween Haunted House." Presented by expert designers, the DVD shows you how to make your house the one everyone's talking about by using inexpensive materials, expert tricks and some imagination. Also on DVD is "Martha's Halloween Ideas." Allow Martha Stewart to show you, as only she can, how to make ghosts, spiders and shrunken "heads" sure to delight young and old alike.

Matthew Mead offers frightfully simple ideas in "Matthew Mead's Halloween Spooktacular." His endless inventive tips for delighting all ages include transforming objects you already have around the house into eerie objects.

Country Living publishes many themed books, including "Country Living Spooky & Bright: 101 Halloween Ideas" which features many family-oriented, hair-raising party and trick-or-treat suggestions.

Of course, no Halloween décor is complete without a jack-o'-lantern or two. "Extreme Pumpkin Carving," by Vic Hood, and "Extreme Pumpkins: Diabolical Do-It-Yourself Designs to Amuse Your Friends and Scare Your Neighbors," by Tim Nardone, will astound and inspire with unique pumpkin creations. The artists' creations require a lot of skill and time but can be adapted to simpler applications that still can impress your neighbors.

Halloween can be family-friendly, hip and swanky, or downright terrifying. Regardless of the vibe you prefer each Oct. 31, the Abilene Public Library has many titles to help you plan your own unique party or event.

Stop by soon and start browsing our selection. Halloween-related titles tend to disappear fast during the weeks leading up to this popular holiday.

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